

Message Text

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TAGS: ECE - CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE - CONSIDERATION OF
SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

REF: GENEVA 7838

1. SUMMARY: WORDING OF ECE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT RE CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR
ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT
AND ENERGY WAS SUBJECT OF HEATED DEBATE AT FINAL MEETING
OF COMMITTEE SESSION OCT 8. DIFFERENCES WERE
EXPRESSED ON INTERPRETATION OF ECE DECISION B(XXXI)
AND WERE SET FORTH IN REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET DEL, SPEAKING FOR EASTERN COUNTRIES, ASSERTED
THAT STATEMENT IN DRAFT REPORT BY NETHERLANDS (FOR
EC COUNTRIES) THAT "ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SET FORTH
IN COMMISSION DECISION B (XXXI), CONSIDERATION BY THE
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE
HOLDING OF ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES IS NOT CALLED FOR AT
THIS TIME" WAS AN "ARBITRARY INTERPRETATION INCOMPATIBLE
WITH THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF DECISION B(XXXI)"
SINCE COMMISSION, IN CALLING TO ATTENTION OF PRINCIPAL
SUBSIDIARY BODIES TOPICS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION AT
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SUCH CONGRESSES HAD PUT NO RESTRICTION ON PSB'S CONSIDERING

WHAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT CONGRESSES SHOULD THEY BE HELD. IN SOVIET VIEW IT WAS QUITE APPROPRIATE FOR PSB'S TO CONSIDER SUCH "MATTERS" (IN CONTRAST TO CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER CONGRESSES SHOULD BE HELD). WHEN EC COUNTRIES REFUSED TO ALTER STATEMENT IN REPORT, SOVIET DEL PROPOSED THAT PHRASES QUOTED ABOVE ALSO BE INCLUDED IN REPORT.

3. SOVIET PROPOSAL LED TO STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN CRYSTAL (UK) THAT IN HIS VIEW COMMISSION IN "DRAWING ATTENTION" OF PSB'S TO TOPICS HAD MEANT TO DO JUST THAT, AND THIS HAD BEEN DONE IN CASE OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE. CONSIDERATION BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE OF HOLDING, ORGANIZATION OR AGENDA OF PROPOSED CONGRESSES WAS THEREFORE NOT APPROPRIATE. US DEL SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT, ADDING, WITH DIRECT REFERENCE TO SOVIET STATEMENT, THAT IN ITS VIEW PSB'S WERE NOT CALLED ON TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO HOLDING OF CONGRESSES, INCLUDING WHAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED. UK (ON BEHALF OF EC COUNTRIES) PROPOSED INSERTING COUNTER STATEMENT IN REPORT TO EFFECT THAT EC COUNTRIES CONSIDERED INTERPRETATION OF DECISION B(XXXI) BY USSR ET AL TO BE "INCORRECT AND NOT IN CONFIRMITY WITH THE AFORESAID DECISION". AFTER FURTHER EXCHANGE, BOTH OF PROPOSED ADDITIONS WERE ADOPTED.

4. COMMENT: LOCAL SPECULATION IS THAT SOVIET MISSION FIRST SECRETARY ZVEZDINE WHO HAS BEEN LEADING EASTERN FORCES IN PSB'S ON CONGRESSS ISSUE IS EAGER TO MAKE RECORD BEFORE HIS IMPENDING RETURN TO MOSCOW. CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING WAS NOT ZVEZDINE'S FINEST HOUR. CATTO

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